

S ECOMMISSION 20549

## ANNUAL AUDITED REPORT FORM X-17A-5 PART III

30 2/25

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0123 Expires: January 31, 2007

Estimated average burden hours per response.....12.00

SEC FILE NUMBER 8-66187

#### **FACING PAGE**

Information Required of Brokers and Dealers Pursuant to Section 17 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 17a-5 Thereunder

01/01/2005	AND ENDING	12/31/2005
MM/DD/YY		MM/DD/YY
STRANT IDENTIFI	CATION	
Financial Group,	Inc.	OFFICIAL USE ONLY
ESS: (Do not use P.O. F	Box No.)	FIRM I.D. NO.
e 140	·	
(No. and Street)	•	
IL	60	123
(State)	(Z	ip Code)
SON TO CONTACT IN	REGARD TO THIS REP	ORT
	· (	Area Code - Telephone Number)
UNTANT IDENTIFI	CATION	
ny, LLP		<del></del>
Suite 300, Chicago	o, IL_	60610
Guite 300, Chicago (City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
		SED/) (Zip Code)
	PROCES	SED (Zip Code)
	PROCES MAR 1 3 2	SED (Zip Code) (Zip Co
	PROCES  MAR 1 3 2  THOMSO	SED (Zip Code) PECEIVED ON AL
(City)	PROCES  PROCES  MAR 1 3 2  THOMSC FINANCIA	SED RECEIVED ON FEB 3 2
	MM/DD/YY STRANT IDENTIFIC Financial Group, IESS: (Do not use P.O. E. 140 (No. and Street) IL (State) SON TO CONTACT IN I	STRANT IDENTIFICATION  Financial Group, Inc.  RESS: (Do not use P.O. Box No.)  The 140  (No. and Street)  IL 60  (State) (Z  SON TO CONTACT IN REGARD TO THIS REPO

\*Claims for exemption from the requirement that the annual report be covered by the opinion of an independent public accountant must be supported by a statement of facts and circumstances relied on as the basis for the exemption. See Section 240 17a-5(e)(2)

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

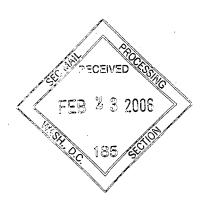
SEC 1410 (06-02)

#### OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Ι, _		Lynn Schmidt	, swear (or affirm) that, to the best of
my	kno	wledge and belief the accompanying financial sta Meritus Financial Group, I	atement and supporting schedules pertaining to the firm of Enc.
of			20 <u>05</u> , are true and correct. I further swear (or affirm) that
			al officer or director has any proprietary interest in any account
		ed solely as that of a customer, except as follows:	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
		,,	
		•	
	~~	<del></del>	
	{	"OFFICIAL SEAL"	Cy- Dui de
	{	DONNA M. SAMUELS	Signature
	<b>\</b>	Notary Public, State of Illinois My Commission Expires 09/22/08	President
		~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Title
	1		<b></b>
	<u>/\_</u>	Ima M Samo	
		Notary Public	
		port ** contains (check all applicable boxes):	
		Facing Page.	
		Statement of Financial Condition.	
X X	٠,	Statement of Income (Loss). Statement of WANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMANDENSMAN	ogh Florm
$\overline{\boxtimes}$		Statement of Changes in Stockholders' Equity of	
$\overline{\boxtimes}$		Statement of Changes in Liabilities Subordinated	
$\overline{\mathbf{X}}$		Computation of Net Capital.	
		Computation for Determination of Reserve Requ	nirements Pursuant to Rule 15c3-3.
		Information Relating to the Possession or Contro	
X	(j)		tion of the Computation of Net Capital Under Rule 15c3-3 and the
$\overline{}$	4.5	Computation for Determination of the Reserve R	
ш	(k)	A Reconciliation between the audited and unaud consolidation.	lited Statements of Financial Condition with respect to methods of
X	m	An Oath or Affirmation.	
		A copy of the SIPC Supplemental Report.	
			and to exist or found to have existed since the date of the previous audit.

<sup>\*\*</sup>For conditions of confidential treatment of certain portions of this filing, see section 240.17a-5(e)(3).

# MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005



## Russell Novak & Company, LLP

Certified Public Accountants • Business Consultants



#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors Meritus Financial Group, Inc.

We have audited the statement of financial condition of Meritus Financial Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2005, and the related statements of operations, changes in stockholder's equity, changes in liabilities subordinated to the claims of creditors, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Meritus Financial Group, Inc. as of December 31, 2005, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The infomation contained in the supplemental material is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by rule 17a-5 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Russell Novak ! Company, LLP January 9, 2006

## MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION DECEMBER 31, 2005

### <u>ASSETS</u>

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 59,510
Receivable from brokers - dealers	6,197
Due from officers	<u>654</u>
Total Assets	¢ 66.361
I Oldi Assets	\$ <u>66,361</u>
LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	
Accrued expenses and accounts payable	\$ 289
Trodica Oxponoso ana associnto payable	Ψ
Total Liabilities	289
STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY	
Common stock - no par value; 30,000 shares	
authorized, 1,000 shares issued and outstanding	1,000
Additional paid in capital	59,000
Retained earnings	6,072
	<del></del>
Total Stockholder's Equity	66,072
· •	
Total Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity	\$ <u>66,361</u>

## MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

REVENUE	
Commissions	\$ <u>420,641</u>
EXPENSES	
Management fees	289,501
Clearing costs	78,786
Technology cost	8,190
Office expense	20,977
Professional fees	9,865
Regulatory fees and dues	7,493
Advertising and marketing	5,125
Dues & subscriptions	1,261
Charitable contributions	2,525
Insurance	929
Miscellaneous expenses	105
Total Expenses	_424,757_
NET LOSS FROM OPERATIONS	( 4,116)
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)	1,547_
NET LOSS BEFORE TAXES	( 2,569)
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAXES	·
NET LOSS	\$( 2,569)

## MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN LIABILITIES SUBORDINATED TO CLAIMS OF CREDITORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

BALANCE - JANUARY 01, 2005	•	\$
ADDITIONS (DEDUCTIONS)		
BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2005		\$ -

### MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

	 Common Stock		Additional Paid in Capital		Retained Earnings	
BALANCE - JANUARY 01, 2005	\$ 1,000	\$	59,000	\$	8,641	
Capital contribution during the year ended December 31, 2005	-		-		-	
Net loss for the year ended December 31, 2005	 	. —		<u>(</u>	2,569)	
BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2005	\$ 1,000	\$	59,000	\$	6,072	

## MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES  Net loss  Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash provided by operations:	\$(	2,569)
(Increase) decrease in assets: Accounts receivable		12,914
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:  Accrued expenses and accounts payable  Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	<u></u>	2,207) 8,138
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		<del>-</del>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		-
NET INCREASE IN CASH		8,138
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR		51,372
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$	59,510
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION		÷
Cash paid for income taxes	\$	-
Cash paid for interest	\$	-

#### MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005

#### Note 1 - Organization

The Company was incorporated in the State of Illinois on June 11, 1997. Registration as a broker-dealer with the Securities and Exchange Commission became effective February 2004. Currently, the Company operates as an introducing licensed broker-dealer with its principal location in Elgin, Illinois.

#### Note 2 - Significant Accounting Policies

The Company uses the accrual method of accounting. Customer transactions are cleared on a fully-disclosed basis through another broker-dealer. Commissions and related clearing expenses are recorded on a trade-date basis as transactions occur.

The Company, with the consent of its shareholder, elected to be an S-Corporation under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Instead of paying corporate income taxes, the shareholders of an S-Corporation are taxed individually on their proportionate share of the Company's taxable income. Therefore, no provision or liability for federal income taxes has been included in these financial statements. The Company is responsible for paying Illinois state replacement tax on the Company's taxable income.

The Company considers all highly liquid debt instruments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. Furthermore, the Company maintains its cash in accounts at various financial institutions. The balances, at times, may exceed federally insured amounts. Management periodically reviews the financial stability of these institutions.

The Company expenses advertising costs as incurred.

#### Note 3 - Net Capital Requirements

Pursuant to the net capital provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company is required to maintain a minimum net capital, as defined under SEC rule 15c3-1. Net capital may fluctuate on a daily basis. As of December 31, 2005, the Company had net capital and net capital requirements of \$64,387 and \$5,000, respectively. The net capital rules may effectively restrict the payment of cash dividends

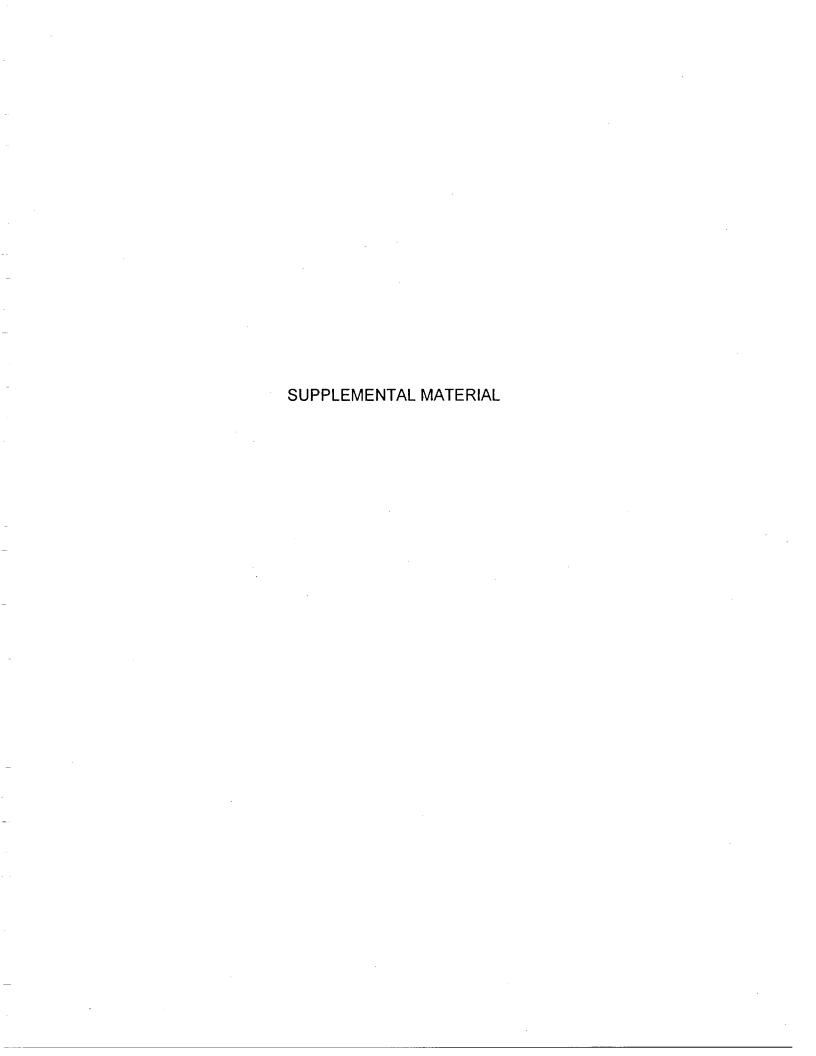
#### Note 4 - Pervasiveness of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2005

#### Note 5 - Related Party Transactions

The Company shares office space with another company affiliated by common ownership. All rent and associated occupancy costs were paid entirely by this affiliated company on behalf of Meritus Financial Group, Inc. Beginning in April 2004, Meritus Financial Group, Inc. pays this affiliated company \$1,730 per month for its share of these costs. These costs are included as office expense on the statement of operations. Additionally, Meritus Financial Group, Inc. reimburses a common paymaster (affiliated through common ownership) for salaries and other operating expenses. These costs are included as management fees expense in the statement of operations. As of December 31, 2005, there were no amounts included in the assets or liabilities of Meritus Financial Group, Inc. pursuant to these reimbursement arrangements.



## Russell Novak & Company, LLP

Certified Public Accountants • Business Consultants



To the Board of Directors Meritus Financial Group, Inc.

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements and supplemental material of Meritus Financial Group, Inc. (the Company), for the year ended December 31, 2005, we considered its internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and supplemental material and not to provide assurance on internal control.

Also, as required by rule 17a-5(g)(1) of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), we have made a study of the practices and procedures followed by the Company including tests of such practices and procedures that we considered relevant to the objectives stated in rule 17a-5(g) in making the periodic computations of aggregate indebtedness (or aggregate debits) and net capital under rule 17a-3(a)(11) and for determining compliance with the exemptive provisions of rule 15c3-3. Because the Company does not carry securities accounts for customers or perform custodial functions relating to customer securities, we did not review the practices and procedures followed by the Company in any of the following:

- 1. Making quarterly securities examinations, counts, verifications, and comparisons.
- 2. Recordation of differences required by rule 17a-13.
- 3. Complying with the requirements for prompt payment for securities under Section 8 of Federal Reserve Regulation T of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The management of the Company is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control and the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph. In fulfilling this responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of controls and of the practices and procedures referred to in the preceding paragraph and to assess whether those practices and procedures can be expected to achieve the SEC's above-mentioned objectives. Two of the objectives of internal control and the practices and procedures are to provide management with reasonable but not absolute assurance that assets for which the Company has responsibility are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition and that transactions are executed in accordance with management's authorization and recorded properly to permit the preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Rule 17a-5(g) lists additional objectives of the practices and procedures listed in the preceding paragraph.

Because of inherent limitations in internal control or the practices and procedures referred to above, error or fraud may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of them to future periods is subject to the risk that they may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or that the effectiveness of their design and operation may deteriorate.



Our consideration of internal control would not necessarily disclose all matters relating to internal control that might be material weaknesses under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of the specific internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. However, we noted no matters involving internal control, including control activities for safeguarding securities, that we consider to be material weaknesses as defined above.

We understand that practices and procedures that accomplish the objectives referred to in the second paragraph of this report are considered by the SEC to be adequate for its purposes in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and related regulations, and that practices and procedures that do not accomplish such objectives in all material respects indicate a material inadequacy for such purposes. Based on this understanding and on our study, we believe that the Company's practices and procedures were adequate at December 31, 2005, to meet the SEC's objectives.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, the SEC, the NASD, and other regulatory agencies that rely on rule 17a-5(g) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 in their regulation of registered brokers and dealers, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Russell Novak & Company, LLP

Kursell Novak ! Company, LLD

January 9, 2006

## FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL COMBINED UNIFORM SINGLE REPORT PART II

as of: December 31, 2005

64,387

3750

Meritus Financial Group, Inc.

**BROKER OR DEALER:** 

10. Net Capital

COMPUTATION OF NET CAPITAL 1. Total ownership equity (from Statement of Financial Condition - Item 1800) 66,072 3480 3490 2. Deduct: Ownership equity not allowable for net capital 66,072 3500 3. Total ownership equity qualified for net capital 4. Add: A. Liabilities subordinated to claims of general creditors allowable in computation of net capital 3520 B. Other (deductions) or allowable credits (List) 0 3525 66,072 3530 5. Total capital and allowable subordinated liabilities 6. Deductions and/or charges: A. Total non-allowable assets from Statement of Financial Condition (Notes B and C) 654 3540 1. Additional charges for customers' and 0 3550 non-customers' security accounts 2. Additional charges for customers' and non-customers' commodity accounts O 3560 B. Aged fail-to-deliver 0 3570 3450 1. Number of items 0 C. Aged short security differences-less reserve of 0 3460 3580 number of items 0 3470 D. Secured demand note deficiency 0 3590 E. Commodity futures contracts and spot commodities proprietary capital charges 3600 0 3610 F. Other deductions and/or charges 0 G. Deductions for accounts carried under Rule 15c3-1(a)(6),(a)(7) and (c)(2)(x) 3615 H. Total deductions and/or charges (654)3620 7. Other additions and/or allowable credits (List) 0 3630 65,418 8. Net Capital before haircuts on securities positions 3640 9. Haircuts on securities: (computed, where applicable, pursuant to 15c3-1(f)): A. Contractual securities commitments 3660 0 B. Subordinated securities borrowings 3670 C. Trading and Investment securities: 1. Bankers' acceptances, certificates of deposit and commercial paper 0 3680 2. U.S. and Canadian government obligations 0 3690 0 3. State and municipal government obligations 3700 4. Corporate obligations 0 3710 0 5. Stocks and warrants 3720 0 6. Options 3730 0 7. Arbitrage 3732 1,031 8. Other securities 3734 D. Undue concentration 0 3650 0 E. Other (list) 3736 (1,031)

## MERITUS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC. RECONCILIATION OF UNAUDITED NET CAPITAL COMPUTATION TO AUDITED NET CAPITAL AND UNAUDITED AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS TO AUDITED AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS DECEMBER 31, 2005

NET CAPITAL PER UNAUDITED COMPUTATION		\$ 64,387
NET CAPITAL PER AUDITED COMPUTATION		\$ 64,387
	٠	
AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS PER UNAUDITED COMPUTATION		\$ 289
AGGREGATE INDEBTEDNESS PER AUDITED COMPUTATION		\$ 289